



U.S. Embassy Santiago Newsletter

Information for American Citizens in Chile

Volume 1 Issue 2

April-June 2006



What is the Warden System?

The Warden System is a worldwide precautionary emergency network system in place at all American embassies. Each American citizen registered at the Embassy is assigned a warden. Wardens are private citizens who volunteer to help the Embassy relay public announcements and messages to the American community residing within the country. Each warden is in charge of contact with Americans in a specific zone that is created for either a geographical location or specific groups of people, such as those in corporations, in student exchange programs, and coming to the country as missionaries. Currently, we are seeking wardens in the cities of Antofagasta, Coquimbo, La Serena, Ovalle, Viña del Mar, Valparaiso, Quilpue, Villa Alemana, San Felipe, San Fernando, and Santiago, specifically in the comunas of Las Condes, Lo Barnechea, Vitacura, Providencia, La Reina, La Florida, and Maipu. If you are interested in possibly becoming a warden in one of these areas or anywhere in Chile, please contact SantiagoAMCIT@state.gov.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Representative Visited Santiago

Every year the Consular Section arranges for an IRS representative to visit Santiago to help Americans prepare to file their taxes. This year, Ms. Monica Merchan from the IRS was in Santiago from March 22-24. During her visit, Ms. Merchan made a presentation on tax issues to about one hundred people at the Instituto Chileno-Norteamericano and had private appointments at the Embassy with nearly fifty more. If you would like to see the presentation Ms. Merchan made at the Instituto, please go to the Embassy website (www.usembassy.cl) under the *U.S. Citizens* tab.

American Association of Chile Meeting

About one hundred American citizens attended the AAC's annual meeting Tuesday, March 14th. Consul General Sean Murphy spoke about the Embassy's efforts to improve consular services. Deputy Chief of Mission Emi Lynn Yamauchi, at whose residence this event was held, spoke about U.S.-Chile relations. Consular staff provided registration services and consular information.

Thank You

On March 22, 12 American tourists were killed and two injured in a bus accident near Arica. The Embassy would like to thank the many Americans (and Chileans) who sent us their regrets on this terrible tragedy. The Embassy would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the two days after the accident when the American Citizen Services (ACS) section was closed for normal business. The American ACS officer and an ACS Chilean employee traveled to Arica to assist and the entire ACS staff helped provide assistance to the families and made the necessary arrangements for the repatriation of the injured men and the deceased to the United States.



Customer Service Survey

In June, the Embassy will distribute the 2006 Customer Service Survey to all registered Americans for whom it has an email address (if you received this newsletter via email, you will receive the survey). This annual survey (the first was conducted in June 2005) helps the Consular Section measure its performance and identify ways to improve service to the American community in Chile. This newsletter, and the policy of priority visa appointments for spouses and minor children of American citizens resident in Chile, were the result of input we received in last year's survey. When you receive the 2006 survey, we hope that you will take a few moments to fill it out and email it back to us. By doing so, you will help to improve consular services for yourself and for your fellow Americans. Results of the survey will be reported in a subsequent edition of this newsletter.

Consular Outreach

Would you like to avoid the expense of traveling to Santiago to renew your passport or get a document notarized? A consul will be in the cities of Arica on April 6 and Iquique on April 7. In Arica, services will be offered at the University of Tarapaca library (2222 Calle 18 de Septiembre), 2nd floor in the new American Corner between 2-4 PM. In Iquique, we will be working out of the Teatro Municipal, Plaza Prat, from 9-12 AM. In addition, a consul will provide services in the city of Concepcion on May 8th. Details of that visit will be forwarded shortly to Americans living in the area.

Avian Flu

U.S. government guidance to help you and your family protect yourselves from Avian flu is available on the State Department website, www.state.gov, under "Issues and Press". Additional information is found in the previous edition of this newsletter, archived on the Embassy webpage.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The American Association of Chile: a non-profit, non-political organization serving and uniting the citizens of the United States and their families, and striving to build strong bridges between our members and the Chilean community (description from AAC's website). www.aachile.org

The American Chamber of Commerce Chile (AMCHAM Chile) To promote free trade and investment between Chile and the United States and to be an effective voice for the membership while facilitating related services (description from AMCHAM's website). www.amchamchile.cl

Little League Chile Do you know a child who would like to play baseball? Would you like to get involved with youth baseball. Contact Mr. Jorge Varela at 228-9768.

International Professional Women's Association (IPWA): a not-for-profit organization of English-speaking women interested in professional, personal and cultural development. Activities include monthly meetings, dinner and cocktail parties. More information is available at: www.ipwasantiago.cl

English Language Religious Services in Santiago Details are available on the Embassy website www.usembassy.cl under the Frequently Asked Questions tab under American Citizens. (schedules are subject to change. Please call to confirm.)

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS? Please send them to SantiagoAMcit@state.gov



Former President Lagos and his wife recently visited the Embassy and had their pictures taken with Consular Section Staff

<p>Contact Information: American Citizen Services, Consular Section, U.S. Embassy Address: Casilla 27-D, Av. Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile Telephone: (56)(2) 232-2600, Fax (56)(2) 330-3005 E-mail: SantiagoAMCIT@state.gov; Website: www.usembassy.cl Walk-in Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-11:30am. closed U.S. & Chilean Holidays</p>

Note: this newsletter is available with graphics on the Embassy website www.usembassy.cl under the American Citizen Services tab.